## REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 4, 20 and 21 have been amended. Claims 1-36 are currently pending in the application.

Claim 1 has been amended to correct a misspelling. No new matter has been added.

In paragraphs 2-5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 4, 20, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant has amended these claims to correct the antecedent basis problems noted by the Examiner. Thus, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7-8, 13, 16-23, 25-26, 31, and 34-36 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Nakai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,253,248). In paragraphs 9-15 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 6, 9-12, 14-15, 24, 27-30, and 32-33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakai et al. in view of various other references. In all of these rejections, Nakai et al. was used as the main reference.

In response to these rejections, Applicant is submitting herewith a declaration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.131 to remove Nakai et al. as a reference. As established by the enclosed declaration, the claimed invention was actually reduced to practice no later, but possibly earlier, than May 6, 1998. Since May 6, 1998 is before the effective date (June

10, 1998) of the Nakai et al. reference, Applicant submits that Nakai et al. cannot be used as a prior art reference against the claimed invention. Without the Nakai et al. reference, the rejections noted above cannot be maintained. Thus, in view of the enclosed declaration, Applicant respectfully requests that all rejections be withdrawn.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, allowance of all claims is hereby respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP

Dated: August 23, 2002

Bobby K. Truong
Reg. No. 37,499

1600 Willow Street
San Jose, California 95125-5106
Telephone No.: (408) 414-1080
Facsimile No.: (408) 414-1076

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Box No-Fee Amend, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

on August 23, 2002 (Date) by _____ (Signature)

**Marked-Up Version**

Claims:

1. (Amended) A method for a client to access data files residing on a first data server through a network comprising:

coupling a [heterogenous] heterogeneous proxy server to the first data server through a first local network protocol;

receiving at the heterogeneous proxy server a data file from the first data server by employing the first network protocol;

translating the data file into a format compatible with transmission through the network; and

transmitting the translated data file to the client across the network.

2. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

sending a request from the client to the heterogeneous proxy server that the data file be received from the first data server and then sent to the client.

3. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

coupling the heterogeneous proxy server to a second data server through a second local network protocol, the first and second local network protocols being different;

selectively receiving at the heterogeneous proxy server a data file from at least one of the first or the second data servers by employing the respective first or second local network protocols;

translating the data file into a format compatible with transmission through the network; and

transmitting the translated data file to the client across the network.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the [HTTP-capable] network is HTTP-capable and employs Transport Control Protocol (TCP).

5. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1 wherein the format compatible with transmission through the network is HyperText Transport Protocol (HTTP).

6. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1 wherein the format compatible with transmission through the network is a Multipurpose Internet Mail Extension (MIME) of HTTP.

7. (Unchanged) The method of claims 1 or 3 wherein the first and second local network protocols each comprise one of the following:

Windows Networking (SMB), File Transport Protocol (FTP), Network File System (NFS), Banyan VINES, DECNet, or AppleTalk.

8. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1 wherein the client employs an HTTP browser for connecting to the heterogeneous proxy server.

9. (Unchanged) The method of claim 8 wherein the client receives an HTML document from the heterogeneous proxy server containing information from the heterogeneous proxy server regarding available data files on the data server.

10. (Unchanged) The method of claim 9 wherein the HTML document allows the client to send a request for the data file to the heterogeneous proxy server.

11. (Unchanged) The method of claim 8 wherein the client downloads an applet, executable by the HTTP browser, the applet configured to receive information from the heterogeneous proxy server regarding available data files on the data server.

12. (Unchanged) The method of claim 11 wherein the applet is configured to send a request for the data file to the heterogeneous proxy server.

13. (Unchanged) The method of claim 8 wherein the browser, upon receiving the data file, initiates an appropriate application for using the data file.

14. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1 further comprising compressing the data file at the heterogeneous proxy server before the data file is transmitted to the client.

15. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1 further comprising e-mailing the data file from the heterogeneous proxy server to an e-mail recipient, without transmitting the data file to the client.

16. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1 further comprising having the heterogeneous proxy server search for the data files at one or more data servers coupled to the heterogeneous proxy server.

17. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1 further comprising authenticating the client before connecting the client to the heterogeneous proxy server.

18. (Unchanged) A method for a client to access data files residing on at least a first and second data server through a network, wherein the network employs Transport Control Protocol (TCP), comprising:

coupling a heterogeneous proxy server to the first data server through a first local network protocol, and to the second data server through a second local protocol, the first and second local network protocols being different;

sending a request from the client to the heterogeneous proxy server that the data file be received from the first or second data servers and then sent to the client, wherein the client employs an HTTP browser for connecting to the heterogeneous proxy server;

selectively receiving at the heterogeneous proxy server a data file from at least one of the first or the second data servers by employing the respective first or second local network protocols;

translating the data file into a format compatible with transmission through the network, comprising HyperText Transport Protocol (HTTP); and

transmitting the translated data file to the client across the network.

19. (Unchanged) A storage device tangibly storing a control program, the control program, when coupled to a control device, operating the control device to allow a client to access data files residing on a first data server through a network, the control program being configured to operate the control device to perform the functions of:

coupling a heterogeneous proxy server to the first data server through a first local network protocol;

receiving at the heterogeneous proxy server a data file from the first data server by employing the first local network protocol;

translating the data file into a format compatible with transmission through the network; and

transmitting the translated data file to the client across the network.

20. (Amended) The storage device of claim 19 wherein the [software] control program operates the control device to receive a request from the client to the heterogeneous proxy server that the data file be received from the first data server and then sent to the client.

21. (Amended) The storage device of claim 19 wherein the [software] control program operates the control device to allow a client to access data files residing on the first and a second data server through the network, the control program being configured to operate the control device to perform the functions of:

coupling the heterogeneous proxy server to the second data server through a second local network protocol, the first and second local network protocols being different;

selectively receiving at the heterogeneous proxy server a data file from at least one of the first or the second data servers by employing the respective first or second local network protocols;

translating the data file into a format compatible with transmission through the network; and

transmitting the translated data file to the client across the network.

22. (Unchanged) The storage device of claim 19 wherein the network employs Transport Control Protocol (TCP).

23. (Unchanged) The storage device of claim 19 wherein the format compatible with transmission through the network is HyperText Transport Protocol (HTTP).

24. (Unchanged) The storage device of claim 19 wherein the format compatible with transmission through the network is a Multipurpose Internet Mail Extension (MIME) of HTTP.

25. (Unchanged) The storage device of claims 19 or 21 wherein the first and second local network protocols each comprise one of the following:

Windows Networking (SMB), File Transport Protocol (FTP), Network File System (NFS), Banyan VINES, DECNet, or AppleTalk.

26. (Unchanged) The storage device of claim 19 wherein the client employs an HTTP browser for connecting to the heterogeneous proxy server.

27. (Unchanged) The storage device of claim 26 wherein the client receives an HTML document from the heterogeneous proxy server containing information from the heterogeneous proxy server regarding available data files on the data server.

28. (Unchanged) The storage device of claim 27 wherein the HTML document allows the client to send a request for the data file to the heterogeneous proxy server.

29. (Unchanged) The storage device of claim 26 wherein the control program allows a client to download an applet executable by the HTTP browser, the applet configured to receive information from the heterogeneous proxy server regarding available data files on the data server.

30. (Unchanged) The storage device of claim 29 wherein the applet is configured to send a request for the data file to the heterogeneous proxy server.

31. (Unchanged) The storage device of claim 26 wherein the browser, upon receiving the data file, initiates an appropriate application for using the data file.

32. (Unchanged) The storage device of claim 19 wherein the control program is further configured to operate the control device to compress the data file at the heterogeneous proxy server before the data file is transmitted to the client.

33. (Unchanged) The storage device of claim 19 wherein the control program is further configured to operate the control device to e-mail the data file from the heterogeneous proxy server to an e-mail recipient, without transmitting the data file to the client.

34. (Unchanged) The storage device of claim 19 wherein the control program is further configured to operate the control device to have the heterogeneous proxy server search for the data files at one or more data servers coupled to the heterogeneous proxy server.

35. (Unchanged) The storage device of claim 19 wherein the control program is further configured to operate the control device to authenticate the client before connecting the client to the heterogeneous proxy server.

36. (Unchanged) A storage device tangibly storing a control program, the control program, when coupled to a control device, operating the control device to allow a client to access data files residing on at least a first and a second data server through a network, wherein the network employs Transport Control Protocol (TCP), the control program being configured to operate the control device to perform the functions of:

coupling a heterogeneous proxy server to the first data server througha first local network protocol, and to the second data server through a second local network protocol, the first and second local network protocols being different;

receiving a request from the client to the heterogeneous proxy server that the data file be received from the first or second data servers and then sent to the client, wherein the client employs an HTTP browser for connecting to the heterogeneous proxy server;

selectively receiving at the heterogeneous proxy server a data file from at least one of the first or the second data servers by employing the respective first or second local network protocols;

translating the data file into a format compatible with transmission through the network, comprising HyperText Transport Protocol (HTTP); and

transmitting the translated data file to the client across the network.